



Justice Information Network history & background

The Criminal Justice Information Act (CJIA) was passed in 1984, in part to provide “timely and accurate criminal histories.”⁸ The law also established an executive committee appointed by the heads of the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP) to provide recommendations on how this goal could be achieved.

In 1989, The CJIA Executive Committee issued a strategic plan, which included the following recommendations:

- determine criminal history information requirements and data standards; and
- develop a complete criminal justice information architecture.”⁹

In 1991, the committee issued “strategic” and “tactical plans.” The strategic plan stated that “a lack of integration of criminal justice systems leads to duplicate data, difficulty sharing information and multiple, inconsistent offender identifiers.” It also acknowledged that the criminal justice structure did not facilitate a “consensus building organization for policy determination and implementation of operational initiatives.”¹⁰

The strategic plan established three goals:

1. develop a criminal justice information system that supports single entry of data, multiple use, emphasis on accuracy and completeness, ensuring information timeliness, adequate access and associated security;
2. provide an environment that allows for equitable allocations of information systems start-up and maintenance costs; and

3. maintain an ongoing planning process that anticipates and keeps pace with the changing criminal justice environment.

The tactical plan outlined projects to achieve these goals and included the development of Live-Scan technology to exchange data from local jurisdictions to the state and automated the exchange of disposition information.

In 1992, the directors of DOC and OFM, along with the chief of the WSP and the Administrator for the Courts (AOC) proposed the creation of a Justice Information Committee (JIC) under the Information Services Board (ISB). The JIC, composed of five state agency directors (AOC, DIS, DOC, OFM and WSP) and five local representatives (district and superior court judges, prosecutors, clerks and law enforcement) was established to “provide direction to the CJIA Executive Committee.”¹¹

In 1994 The JIC developed a strategic plan, which for the first time, developed the concept of a Justice Information Network (JIN), to “...provide an unbroken chain of information at every level of the justice enterprise.”¹² The Justice Information Network was envisioned as the fulfillment of the JIC’s mission statement:

Any justice practitioner in the state will have complete, timely and accurate information about any suspect or offender. This information will include criminal history and current justice system status, will come from data that have been entered only once, and will be available in

⁸ RCW §10.98.010.

⁹ Executive Consulting Group, *Interagency Strategic Plan for Criminal History Information Systems*, June 1989.

¹⁰ Executive Consulting Group, *Criminal Justice Information Strategic Plan*, June 1, 1991 pp. 2-4

¹¹ Office of Financial Management, *Proposal to the Information Services Board*, January 1992, p. 1

¹² Justice Information Committee, *Justice Information Strategic Plan 93-95 Update*, Sept. 1994.



*a single computer session from automated statewide systems. These systems and the services they provide will be known as the Justice Information Network.*¹³

The plan included projects to:

- implement an identification method known as the Process Control Number;
- transfer fingerprints electronically to the WSP;
- establish data standards;
- make consolidated information available through a single session; and
- upgrade systems.

The strategic plan and its outcomes led to a Network Feasibility Study, which was completed in 1997.¹⁴ The study proposed a five-year plan for connectivity at a cost of approximately \$5 million but was not implemented because parallel development of the Intergovernmental Network (IGN) offered an opportunity to achieve an acceptable level of connectivity at a much lower cost.

In 1998, the members of the criminal justice community signed a memorandum of understanding in support of information sharing. The agreement provided that no justice system or component would be developed without the effective participation of state and local stakeholders. The memorandum provided that DIS would support a project coordinator for “...development and stewardship of the Justice Information Network.”¹⁵

The 1999-2001 Integration Blueprint, issued jointly by the JIC and the CJIA Executive Committee, identified a number of integration goals, as well as a set of important agency-specific projects (including automated fingerprints, WSP system rewrite, electronic judgment and sentencing). The Blueprint expressed the

need for a Summary Offender Profile application and called for the development of a sustainable funding model for the JIN.¹⁶

The 2001-2003 JIN Blueprint reiterated the need for the Summary Offender Profile (SOP) – a project to be owned and managed by the JIN community – although it made no mention of the funding model described in its 1999 predecessor.¹⁷ This version of the Blueprint provided a brief description of various projects that support the justice community’s goal of an integrated justice system in Washington and the agencies responsible for each effort.

These projects included the following:

Summary of 2001 Portfolio of JIN Projects	
Project	Lead
Sex Offender Registry	WSP
Electronic Citations	AOC
Disposition transfer	AOC, WSP
Eliminate fingerprint & disposition backlog	WSP
Electronic Judgment and Sentencing	AOC
Offender Management Network	DOC
Jail Booking and Reporting System	WASPC
Law Enforcement Data Access	DOL

Many of these projects have made significant progress and do or will play a significant role in the justice community.

In 2002, the JIC commissioned a set of Implementation Recommendations. This document, which included a \$16 million plan for integration projects statewide and a set of models for data exchanges, has

¹³ Justice Information Committee, *Justice Information Strategic Plan 93-95 Update*, Sept. 1994.

¹⁴ ECG, *State of Washington, Justice Information Network, Network feasibility Study*, Mar. 1997.

¹⁵ *Memorandum of Understanding in Support of the Sharing of Information within Washington’s Criminal Justice Community*, November 1998.

¹⁶ *Justice Information Network, 1999-2001 Biennial Integration Blueprint*, Aug. 1999

¹⁷ *JIN Blueprint 2001-2003*, p. 38



been a valuable resource tool in the creation of this Plan, although the recommendations herein are considerably more modest and incremental in approach.

The JIN did not issue a Strategic Plan for 2003-2005. The CJIA Executive Committee and the JIC were consolidated in 2002 and replaced by the Board in 2003.

Five agencies (AOC, DIS, DOC, DOL, WSP) agreed to fund the hiring of a program director in late 2002; a candidate was hired in April 2003. DIS has provided support for the operations of the Program Office since that time, and Governor Locke transferred \$100,000 of federal Byrne grant monies to the Board in September 2003. This money has helped to fund the transition and deployment of the SOP.

